

# California GARDEN

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1996

Volume 87 No. 6

\$1.50



# HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

## NOV. 2

**DESCANSO GARDENS** 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada Flintridge. First Saturday Talk "Selecting Bulbs for Long Spring Bloom". 9AM-5PM. 818/952-4401. \$5.

## NOV. 2-3

**LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB** 12th Annual Plant Sale. Vons Market. The Plaza Bernardo Center Dr., Rancho Bernardo. Sat. 9am-4PM. Sun. 9AM-2PM. Native, Bulbs, Etc. 480-4750.

**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION** Chrysanthemum Show & Sale. 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sat. & Sun. 9AM-4PM. Call 310/544-1948 \$5.

## NOV. 4

**PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM** Floral Design Program by Dr. George Herring. The Courtyard 16935 West Bernardo Dr., Rancho Bernardo. 1-3PM. 749-1920. Series \$35.

## NOV. 5 & 12

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Flower Arranging-Advanced Fall Class. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Velma West, instructor. Call 232-5762. Two Classes \$35.

## NOV. 7-10

**THE HUNTINGTON** Fall Plant Festival. 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. Thurs.-Sun. 1-4PM. 818/405-2141. \$7.50

## Nov. 9

**FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB** Plant and Bake Sale. Lucky Market, Mission Ave. Fallbrook. 9AM-2PM. 723-1893.

## NOV. 10

**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION** "Latest in African Violets". 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sun. 2PM. 310/544-1948. \$5.

## NOV. 19

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Holiday Basket Special. M. Rosenberg, Instructor. Information 232-5762. \$20.

## DEC. 2

**PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM** Floral Design Program by Gudrun Kimmel. The Courtyard 16935 West Bernardo Dr., Rancho Bernardo. 1-3PM. 749-1920. Fee.

## DEC. 3

**LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB** Holiday Tea and Bazaar. 7776 Eads Ave., La Jolla. 12:30-3:30PM. 454-4109. \$7.50.

## DEC. 3-24

**THE HUNTINGTON** Holiday Garden Show. 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. Tues-Fri Noon-4:30PM. Weekends 10:30AM-4:30PM. 818/405-2144. \$7.50.

## DEC 6-7

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Christmas on the Prado. Annual Holiday Show. Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Fri. 5-9PM. and Sat. Noon-9PM. Free.

## DEC. 7

**THE ARBORETUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY** Holidays in the Garden. 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. 10-Noon. 818/447-8207. Fee.

## DEC. 7-15

**DESCANSO GARDENS** Show. "Let Heaven and Nature Sing." 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada Flintridge. 818/952-4401. \$5.

## DEC. 11

**THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA** Holiday Tour, one traditional and one contemporary home with holiday arrangements. 6366 and 6390 Cardeno Dr. La Jolla, 1-4PM. Call 390-9908 for information. Donation \$5.

## MONTHLY

**SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Speakers. Wagering Facility, Del Mar Racetrack. Mon. 6:30-9PM. Call 630-7307.

## ONGOING EVENTS

**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas. 9AM-5PM. 436-4032.  
**BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE** Walks. Poway. Sat & Sun 9AM. 486-7238.

## BALBOA PARK:

**SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN** Docent Tours. 232-2780. Fee.  
**OFFSHOOT TOURS** 1Hr. Meet Botanical Lath House. 10AM. 235-1121. Free.  
**INTERPRETIVE WALKS** Ranger guided. Meet Visitors Center. 10AM. 235-1211. Free.

## JAN 6 - TO MAY 5, 1997

**PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM** Designer, Barbara Gillum. (See Dec. 2).

Deadline for submission to **HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for Jan./Feb. issue is Nov. 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations





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NUMBER 6

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1996

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COVER illustration of a daffodil by Jeanie Foord  
was originally published in London, in 1906.

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# Gleanings . . .

## CLIMATE PROBLEM . . .

San Diego has at least five major climates—coast, near coast, regular, hotter-colder regular, semi-desert. Plants grow or don't grow the same in each of these climates. *California Garden* tries to indicate the area where the author-gardener of our articles lives, but occasionally we goof and our readers tell us.

**CLIVIA:** We recently wrote that clivia can stand morning sun. It can near the coast, but not inland. A La Mesa gardener and a Chula Vista gardener both stated that their clivia needed shade and that morning sun would dry and shrivel the leaves.

**LETTUCE:** Gardeners in all the zones responded to an article stating that lettuce was now being grown in the summer under a shade cloth covered structure. One gardener said he'd been growing lettuce in the summer for years in the shade of a tree. Another gardener said he'd been successful growing lettuce in the shade of his taller vegetable garden plants.

## BEST PLANTING SEASON . . .

From the first of October until the last of November is the best time of the year to plant most things in Southern California. Trees and shrubs do especially well because the ground is still warm enough so they will root quickly and be ready for the winter rains. There are also fewer pests and diseases to attack your new and tender plants. This is the time to plant vegetables and perennials.

Bulbs are available and can be planted now. If you have limited space or time, colorful spot gardens can be made in large flat pots and scattered about the garden. Put the bulbs, freesias are good, in first and then over plant with violas or pansies from pony packs. These will be beautiful for months. Several kinds of bulbs and small flowering plants can be placed in one pot. Care and water needs will be at a minimum and beauty at a maximum.

## PAPERWHITE TIME . . .


The bulbs are in the stores and it's time to start your paperwhite narcissus on pebbles in water for bloom in the holiday season. It takes about six weeks from water to flower. The smell of the blooming flowers is wonderful and permeates the whole room. Most guides advise placing the bowl in a dark place until the leaves are up a few inches. The leaves will not grow so tall if this is done. This is best for low bowl planting. I always start a few in a high vase and immediately expose them to high

light. That way I get a wonderful lasting bouquet to place on a desk or in the bathroom.

## WHITEFLIES IN BALBOA PARK . . .

Giant whiteflies are trying to attach to every variety of plant growing in Balboa Park. Some plants are able to withstand the invasion, but many are covered with these aggressive and unsightly insects. Everyone is having the problem. Let's hope a good cure is speedily found.

## TREES FOR THE HOLIDAYS . . .

All one has to see is a triangle with the point up at this time of the year and thoughts turn to the holidays. In every country and ethnic group, some type of welcoming or celebrating holiday or festival is held during the winter. Often it is associated with the coming of the new year and most of them grew out of some kind of ceremony either to give thanks for a harvest or to entice the summer to come back and bring the growing season. Many of the early peoples who emigrated to America came from areas where trees, particularly evergreens, were used as decorations in these ceremonies. From primitive celebrations, the celebrations have been given other meanings particularly within different religious groups. But, in America the period from the end of November to the end of the year has become a period of rejoicing in the good things we enjoy being Americans. People enjoy special foods and often exchange well-wishing greeting and even gifts. And...plants are an important part, particularly a tree. Many feel that only a decorated pine-type tree will do, but some of the best looking "trees" are decorated cactus plants, dragon trees, jade plants, bottlebrush or even oleanders. Many people now add small lights to any tree or shrub outdoors and enjoy them from inside without the fuss and mess. (Many homes are too small to accommodate a tree.) In fact, if you go around San Diego you will find that many restaurants and hotels have found these "lighted trees" so charming that they never remove the lights. Some neighborhoods have decorated their street trees, and many have left the lights on. It's pretty and charming and festive and nice. Usually the participants have different ethnic, racial, generation, religious backgrounds — but they are all enjoying the sharing and companionship of saying "hello" to their neighbors. The tiny lights use very little power, are safe, will not harm the plants, and twinkle so charmingly. Have a wonderful time joining in the decorating of San Diego. It's fun to tour the different neighborhoods to see how festive they look. 

# TULIPS THAT COME BACK

by BETTY NEWTON

JANE MINSHALL, GARDENING in the Eucalyptus Hills section of Lakeside, has a success story to share. It's her experience growing long-stemmed tulips.

We know, after many years, that basically tulips are good for one year here. That is: after purchase and six weeks or more of fall refrigeration at about 45 degrees, they will grow and bloom in our soil. The next year, although the leaves look okay, the flowers will be stubby and inconsequential if they appear at all.

Wonderful exceptions to this short life in a mild climate are two short species tulips, *Tulipa clusiana* and *Tulipa saxatilis*. *T. clusiana* has pretty narrow red petals, white inside, and *T. saxatilis* has wider, outflopping lavender-pink petals with yellow centers. These can be left in a fast-draining soil that is watered only by rainwater and return and bloom for many years.

But Jane Minshall grows traditional tall-stemmed tulips in many colors at the base of a three-and-a-half foot rock wall every spring and some of them produce a second and third year! Minshall is a retired landscape architect for the San Diego City Schools.



Here is the technique for growing lovely tulips as she does. I was privileged to enjoy them last spring. Now is the time of the year to see if you can get similar results.

1) Minshall has a low wall that provides shade on the narrow bed of soil November through February. This assures cool root development without pushing top growth too soon.

2) In mid-September she digs last year's tulips up to see if any are big and solid enough to plant again. About a third can be used again.

3) She refrigerates those bulbs (and the new ones she buys to add to the display) for four to six weeks and plants them in November.

From the picture you can see the display of tulips is

very satisfying. She does not stress nor particularly remember the variety names. And, best of all, the bulbs that grew there last year have the longer stems.

In the picture you may see suggestions of the naturalized sparaxis that bloom profusely each year on a slope at the side of Jane Minshall's home. They've gone wild.

This harlequin flower from South Africa receives no summer watering unless it rains. They reseed and have developed a wide range of colors from pale pink through deepest burgundy. The flowers are profuse every spring.

Minshall will water in early fall to get the sparaxis started if it fails to rain. The South African bulbs have now reseeded themselves on the other side of her house! □

*Betty Newton teaches gardening classes at Grossmont Adult School and writes for the Sunday San Diego Union-Tribune. Photo by the author.*

## DAFFODILS

by Suzanne M. Mack

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hill,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils.

Wordsworth

OVER THE YEARS I have killed a number of daffodil bulbs. I did this by placing otherwise viable bulbs in impossible situations. These bulbs really have few requirements and it takes a consummate effort to defeat their mission to bloom. Call them daffodil, jonquil, or narcissus, these hardy bulbs offer a wide variety of shape, color, and flower form. Their chief requirement is drainage. They will not tolerate having to spend their days sitting in standing water during the rainy season. Where ever you plant them, make sure it is "high ground" at least to the extent it isn't in your yard's personal floodplain. They adapt to sun or partial shade.

Daffodils come in double, ruffled, hybrid, traditional yellow, orange, apricot, cream, pink, and pure white. There are bunched, fragrant, trumpet, and those named after celebrities. In Southern California they are available from your local nursery beginning in September. No matter which variety you select look for large, firm bulbs. Unlike tulips they require no chilling time in your refrigerator. Until ready to plant keep the bulbs in a cool dry place. Plant as soon as you get them, water well and wait until mid-February or early March for the display. With any luck your daffodils will naturalize and come back again and again. They are spectacular marshaled on either side of a walkway, massed in beds, in rock gardens, or crammed into pots. Let them pop up around a stone



rabbit sculpture somewhere in your garden. Add them to pots or beds containing other foliage plants for a brief spot of color and whimsy. If you don't like the look of bare soil over your bulbs, there are several low ground covers such as creeping thyme, baby's tears, or sweet alyssum to plant over the area.

Gophers don't find the bulbs tasty, but slugs and snails can be a real problem. It is rather disheartening to wait for the blooms only to find an array of ambitious, ravenous slugs have beaten you to the punch. Trapping or baiting for snails and slugs before the fact is the best solution. Whether you hand pick, use traps, Deadline, granular bait, or plates of beer, you will need to do something if snails and slugs are a problem in your yard.

Daffodils, like spring, don't last as long as we might like them to, unfortunately. Like most bulbs they gather the fuel for next year's flowering after their blooming cycle. To ensure that they generate adequate stores of nutrients let the foliage turn yellow and die back before cutting it off.

Paperwhite narcissus make a lovely indoor display during gray winter days. Place bulbs in a shallow container on a bed of pebbles over a layer of horticultural charcoal (to keep the water fresh) and a little water. They prefer a cool environment and the fragrance can be bit overpowering come evening. The container can always be moved to another room until morning.

Other easy to grow spring bulbs are ranunculus, Dutch iris, freesias, anemones and amaryllis. Most nurseries have charts that will tell you how deep to plant a particular variety of bulb.

Select your bulbs now and get them into their assigned location in your garden. Come the end of winter these happy harbingers of spring will nod in your garden year after year. □

*Suzanne M. Mack graduated from the Master Gardener Program in 1996. A long-time resident of the San Diego area, she grows flowers and vegetables at her home in the Del Cerro/San Carlos region.*



## BUTTERFLY PASSIONS — GULF FRITILLARIES AND *PASSIFLORA*®

by Pat Pawlowski

THE FIRST TIME THAT something is accomplished or experienced is very special, and will always be remembered.

For example, I'll never forget the first time I saw the amazing "cause and effect" in butterfly gardening. It was shortly after I planted *Passiflora* (sometimes known as passion vine, passionflower vine, or passion flower) in order to attract the gulf fritillary butterfly, or *Agraulis vanillae*.

Earlier, I had joined the Monarch Program and learned how milkweed (*Asclepias*) attracts monarch butterflies. And, after doing some reading about butterflies, I had planted a passionflower vine, which is the larval-food plant of the gulf fritillary, to see if I could attract that species.

It was as if I had waved a magic wand.

One day, while I was out in the yard, I saw a medium-size, mostly orange, long-winged butterfly. It flitted and danced around the passionflower vine, then settled on one of the leaves and, curving its abdomen, neatly deposited a tiny yellow egg on the leaf.

Before the purchase of this vine, I had never even seen a gulf fritillary in my yard. It seemed almost a miracle. For those who are butterfly gardening greenhorns, it is necessary to understand a short history of a butterfly's life in order to be successful in attracting gulf fritillaries to the garden.

Imagine you are a gulf fritillary. You start out as an egg, having been laid on the leaf of a *Passiflora*, which is the only species of plant that will sustain you in the caterpillar, or larval, stage. You hatch into a tiny caterpillar and start eating the leaves of the vine. As you grow, you shed your skin a number of times and finally achieve the epitome of gulf fritillary caterpillar fashion: you are dark gray with orange stripes and studly black spines. You have eaten your way through quite a few passionflower vine leaves and are now ready to form a chrysalis, which is the next stage of your life. In a matter of hours you have attached yourself with a handy silken button to a sturdy limb or patio overhang, and you now resemble a tiny brown curled-up leaf. You hang around like this for a week or so and then emerge as a colorful butterfly, mostly orange on top, with a silver-spangled pattern underneath. You then fly off to search for nectar and a member of the opposite sex.

Gulf fritillary adults, just like adults of nearly all other butterfly species, do NOT eat the leaves of plants. Instead, they sip nectar from a great variety of plant



species.

If you are a gardener who cannot bear to see a few holes in a plant, you might not want a *Passiflora*—instead, you might decide to grow plants that supply only nectar. However, although I always had nectar-producing plants in my garden, it was only AFTER I included the butterfly's larval-food plant that I saw a gulf fritillary in my yard. So it's best to provide food for both the larval stage and the adult stage of the butterfly.

In order to mitigate the sight of munched-on *Passiflora* leaves, you could situate your vine near a tree or shrub and let the vine climb up and merge with the leaves of the other plant. That way, half-eaten leaves won't be as noticeable. Attention! Don't use pesticides! Butterfly caterpillars (and many other beneficial species) will die after ingesting pesticide-laced foliage.

In addition to supplying leaves as sustenance for the gulf fritillary caterpillar, passionflowers provide sustenance for the gardener's aesthetic sense. Passionflowers are among the most exotic and beautiful blooms. They come in different colors, are very dramatic-looking, and many are easy to grow. They originated in the tropics, and when the vines were introduced into California, so were the butterflies—stowaways on the introduced plants.

*Passiflora*, so named by early Jesuits, is believed by some persons to be the flower that grew on the cross in a vision seen by St. Francis of Assisi. Each part of the flower is said to represent some instrument of the Passion: The ten petal-like parts—the five sepals and five petals—represent the ten faithful apostles. The fringed crown could represent a halo or the crown of thorns. The five stamens represent the five wounds.

Following are some of the many varieties of passionflower vine that can be grown in our area:

*Passiflora alata* caerulea. Carried in many nurseries.

Good-looking flowers of whitish-pink and lavender with purple crown. Said to be the least attractive to butterflies; however, it drew butterflies to my yard.

*P. caerulea* 'Constance Elliott'. White flowers. Vigorous and easy to grow.

*P. jamesonii* 'Coral Sea'. Salmon to coral flowers. Profuse blooms all summer.

*P. manicata*. Flowers scarlet with narrow blue crown.

There are many other varieties. All passionflower vines need average water and feeding, and are tolerant of many soils. Although they prefer full sun, some varieties tolerate some shade.

Favorite nectar plants of adult gulf fritillaries include the following: *Lantana*, *Pentas lanceolata* (star clusters),

*Verbena*, *Passiflora* (passion flower), *Chrysanthemum* species, and *Centranthus ruber* (red valerian), which is easy to grow and very drought tolerant.

In addition to providing refreshments to attract fritillaries, here are some other tips: Place plants in a sunny location and provide some protection from strong winds.

For extra information, call The Monarch Program (619-

944-7113) or visit the San Diego Natural History Museum book shop. One of the best books on local butterflies is *The Butterflies of Southern California* by John and Thomas Emmel. Another good one is *The Butterfly Garden* by M. Tekulsky. If you wish to purchase *Passiflora*, contact The Monarch Program or visit a local nursery.

With a combination of the above suggestions, you should be able to make your garden into an enticing place for butterfly assignments.

So, go ahead—throw caution to the winds.

Introduce some passion into the life of your garden!

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer and wildlife garden designer. (see page 186)



*Agraulis vanillae*, gulf fritillary butterfly photo by Bill Howell

# TOPIARIES

by Robert Horwitz

TOPIARIAN ART COMES IN SEVERAL forms. The simplest definition of topiaries is to call it plant sculpture. The art of topiary originated in ancient times which is proved by the fact that the word topiary stems from the Greek word "topos," meaning place. In Latin the word became "topiarius," loosely defined as a man who gardens.

Renaissance gardens featured topiary forms with the most spectacular in France being Louis XIV's ornate gardens at Versailles. The English picked up the art from the French and formal English gardens feature very ornate topiaries, both by sculpturing the plants and by making frames or armatures to make a base for plants to grow over and around to make an artistic form of an animal or an art object.

When you go to the San Diego Zoo, you will see at the entrance two very large topiaries in the form of elephants. In the Zoo itself there are more examples of topiaries resembling animals. These are good examples of topiaries that are formed by making a framework in the shape of the elephants and growing small-leaved English ivy to cover the shape. Inside the framework there are pockets of soil and peat moss where additional ivy can root and grow. The tusks and eyes are made of painted wood. I think I have seen evidence of a drip watering system within the elephant to keep the growing ivy moist.

I have noted many private topiaries made from sculpted yew trees and small-leaved podocarpus. The forms vary from a cone shape to a pyramid to horizontal rings of foliage separated by a space of bare trunk. The Australian tea plant makes a great ball topiary with the added attractiveness of being covered by small pink, red or white blossoms. Any small-leaved plant that will withstand considerable pruning makes a good candidate for a topiary form.

To make a topiary form in the likeness of an animal

or bird one needs to construct a base of chicken wire, wood, and plain wire in the desired shape. You can flesh out the shape by wiring into position enough peat moss to form a growing base for the plant. Choose an appropriate small-leaved plant that will grow readily to cover the framework. The base of the framework, if it is small, can be the container in which the plant grows. For larger topiaries one can locate a growing container inside of the framework, making the container mounting strong enough to hold the weight of container and its wet soil.

Here is a partial list of additional plants that can be used for the construction of topiaries:

Portulaca — Non-woody with trailing characteristics. It is an annual with leaf size of less than an inch.

Rosemary — A woody trailing type of plant with small, dark-green leaves and occasional purple blossoms.

Salvia — A woody, non-trailing, evergreen with leaves up to two or three inches in size.

Thunbergia — Similar to salvia except it exhibits trailing characteristics and the leaves are about two inches in size.

There is a good book on new topiary techniques by Patricia Riley Hammer called *The New Topiary*, published by the Garden Art Press. A copy of this book is in the San Diego Floral Association library. [Editor's note: the Floral Association offers classes in constructing and growing topiaries, however none are scheduled in November and December.]□

*Robert Horwitz is a retired aerospace engineer who gardens in Point Loma. Photos of topiary forms, taken at Mission Hills Nursery, 1525 Ft. Stockton Dr., San Diego, by J. Coleman.*





# BILL MCNAMARA — PLANT WORLD EXPLORER

HE'S FACED EXOTIC DISEASES and brutal living conditions. Skidded off treacherous dirt roads while driving high in the mountains in Tibet. Been detained by suspicious government officials who view most Americans as spies. Stepped foot into remote villages that have never seen a westerner — all to hold a few precious seeds in his hand. Bill McNamara is a plant collector who travels to the most exotic reaches of the globe in search of seeds and data that will expand our knowledge of the world's flora and save species from obliteration.

He has been on expeditions to North America and to Japan, India, and China. Concentrating his efforts in Asia, McNamara has traveled nine times to areas of China that are closed to most outsiders. To find plants in their natural habitats, which is necessary to document them scientifically for posterity, he often goes to regions that are all but inaccessible. His main focus is the Chinese-Tibetan border, a rugged area where passes are sometimes 14,000 to 15,000 feet high and the guides are always concerned that they will be trapped and will not get out before the heavy snows come in mid-fall.

McNamara faces other hazards on his expeditions. He and his team, which includes two Kew Garden horticulturists and three or four locals, always travel with an armed guard, not only for personal protection, but also to appear official to authorities and bureaucrats they encounter. Local chiefs (or mayors) are fairly autonomous and like to think they can deny access and ignore permits. Anyone traveling on a scientific visa is automatically suspect. Plant poachers often smuggle exotic species and, in order to stop this, some governments close down their borders to all plant collectors — even legitimate scientists. McNamara said being detained in police stations and having equipment confiscated (at least temporarily) is commonplace.

He feels the dangers and hassle of his travels are well worth it. On his five to six week trips he typically collects three hundred to five hundred different specimens. He

brings home seeds and herbarium specimens, which are dried, pressed pieces of plant material containing a reproductive part such as a seed. Once he returns home, he germinates many of the seeds himself and sends others to botanical gardens here and abroad for study.

Bill McNamara is the director of Quarryhill Botanical Garden in Glen Ellen, California. It is dedicated to the research and conservation of Asian plants. At the present time there are over ten thousand plants (2000+ species) in the ground. He sits on the board of trustees of Saratoga Horticultural Research Foundation, a nonprofit organization that introduces new and appropriate plants to the California landscape. [See page 186] Any plants that have potential ornamental or commercial value, he gives to the Research Foundation for further evaluation and testing. The foundation then sells the best to growers who will offer them to retail nurseries and landscape professionals.

When asked how he became a plant explorer, Bill McNamara said that since his childhood he has been fascinated by the stories of the early plant explorers and thought that no person did it anymore. Then in 1987 he was in the right place at the right time and had the opportunity to join an expedition. Since then he's been on thirteen expeditions.



Bill McNamara collecting specimen in China.  
Note snow covered peaks in background.

## ROSE DISCOVERIES

Among his most exciting discoveries are many varieties of wild species roses. Quarryhill Botanical Garden in Glen Ellen has built one of the largest collections of roses in the country. One important discovery was a rose long thought to be extinct — *Rosa chinensis forma spontanea*. It is one of the main parents of modern roses. It was thought lost but is now growing in his garden. Rose experts come from around the world and rose breeders are interested because it was so important in the initial breeding. □

Barbara Jones used material supplied by Peggy Fernandez of the Saratoga Horticultural Research Foundation and Bill McNamara to write this article. (See page 186.)

# HERBS — CULTURE AND LANDSCAPE USES

by HELEN CHANDLER

DR. ARTHUR O. TUCKER'S LECTURE, "Herbs: Culture and Landscape Uses," at the San Diego Wild Animal Park on July 20th was like a semester's study in botany and horticulture. Dr. Tucker is a Research Professor at Delaware State University in Dover. He is very knowledgeable in all aspects of herbs and has written many articles on herbs in both scientific and popular journals. He is a member of the Herb Society of America, the International Herb Association, and numerous botanical and horticultural organizations.

He said that almost every plant can be considered an herb in one way or another because herbs are defined as plants used for cooking, fragrance, medicine, dyes, liqueurs, cleansing lotions, hallucinogens, and/or poisons. This horticultural definition contrasts with the botanist's definition of an herb as a non-woody plant (as in "herbaceous perennials").

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LECTURE

### [IN THE GARDEN]

In growing herbs, or any other plant, it is advisable to consider their origins and try to emulate the conditions from that area. Many of our herbs originated in the Mediterranean region, where the soil is well drained and often light colored under a bright sun. Raised beds provide drainage; sand, gravel, marble chips, crushed oyster shells, etc. provide drainage and soil reflectivity as well, which is beneficial. Dark-colored mulches, such as wood chips, are to be avoided. Dr. Tucker showed slides of an experiment done with 'Dutch' lavandin. One treatment had a one-inch topping of white sand compared with bare, dark-colored loam. The plants mulched with white sand produced up to 100% greater yield of blossoms compared with the plants on bare soil. The sand not only reflects light but also cools, improves drainage, and controls weeds.

Dr. Tucker covered a lot of material in an hour. It would be impossible to list all the points he made, but some specific ideas may be useful:

- Use **caraway thyme** if you want a thyme lawn. Caraway thyme is vigorous, mounding upon itself, and releases a pleasant caraway odor when walked upon.

- **Sweet woodruff** needs dappled shade and rich, humusy soil and a good winter freeze.

- **True Greek oregano** has white flowers, green floral bracts, and a heavy creosote-like odor. If your so-called Greek oregano produces pink flowers and pink floral bracts, it is probably wild marjoram. Not flavorful, wild marjoram is not good for much besides dried flowers and landscaping.

- **Basil** originated in tropical Asia and Africa. As such, it loves heat and should not be set out until the weather warms considerably. There are many types of basil, in colors from green to red and in fragrances including licorice candy, clove, cinnamon, and lemon.



*Lavandula multifida*, photo by Betty Newton

### [IN THE KITCHEN]

- Try **fennel** in pickles instead of dill for a change of pace.

- The **marigold** suggested for use in cooking is the poet's marigold, or *Calendula officinalis*. This plant prefers cool weather.

- **Pennsylvania German** potato salad must have chopped **chives**. Also try chive blossoms in white vinegar, which is lavender at first, fading to a tan later.

- **Nasturtiums** come to us from the cool slopes of the Andes in Peru. All parts of this plant are edible, providing a wonderful sharp radish-like taste.

### [CAUTIONS]

- **Sweet woodruff** produces **coumarin**, which is harmful in excess, but its use in tobacco and May wine does not fall under the FDA. **Mexican vanilla**, which is usually high in added coumarin, is not recommended for consumption.

- In using **bay leaves** [from *Laurus nobilis*] in cooking, be sure to remove them before serving food. Choking and perforated intestines have been reported in the literature. California bay [*Umbellularia californica*] is not advised for cooking because of the literature documenting it as toxic, and the FDA has not granted it GRAS (generally recommended as safe) status.

- Recent chemical analyses of **borage** have indicated that it is high in carcinogenic alkaloids and should not be eaten.

- Every form of **epazote** (alias wormseed) [*Chenopodium ambrosioides*] analyzed so far is rich in ascaridole and



thus toxic and not recommended for food (this is another plant without GRAS status from the FDA).

● **DO NOT MAKE HERBAL OILS** unless you plan to **REFRIGERATE** them and serve them in **LESS THAN ONE WEEK**. Since herbs are loaded with bacteria and fungi, oil provides a good medium for growth, and home canning facilities are usually not capable of properly sterilizing oils for storage.

● Be warned that **rue** produces photosensitization, or raised welts that may leave scars if brushed against on a hot, sunny summer day.

#### [MISCELLANEOUS]

● No one should prescribe medicinal herbs unless they have a medical license and malpractice insurance. However, the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution allows us to (1) quote the scientific literature on herbs, (2) quote how certain ethnic groups use herbs, and (3) quote how you personally use herbs (just so it does not smack of prescription) without risk of prosecution. The scientific experiments on the efficacy of medicinal herbs are often scanty and poorly conceived, but the literature does indicate that **feverfew** is useful for migraine headaches; **garlic** is antifungal, antiviral, anticarcinogenic, and anti-cholesterol (and anti-social); and **echinacea** and **ginseng** enhance the immune system.

● **Tussie mussies** were originally used to ward off the plague. Later, in Victorian times, each flower and herb was assigned a meaning and messages were sent between lovers. Today, the idea of a tussie mussie can be used in wedding bouquets or as a quaint gift.

● Technically an **herbal tea** is a tisane. Tea is tea, the sacred *cha* of Japan and China [*Camellia sinensis*], but *herbal tea* is better understood by the American public, even though it is an oxymoron.

● **Heritage roses**, such as "Apothecary's Rose" and damask rose, also herbs, are used to make rose water, as edible flowers, and in potpourri. The original potpourri was prepared wet, similar to sauerkraut (with layers of kosher salt to preserve the fleeting scent).

Dr. Tucker showed slides of many types of herb gardens at home and abroad, providing the use of herbs in landscaping. He said that the American colonists did not have herb gardens (except apothecary gardens). In vernacular gardens, mint was planted by the well, horseradish was planted along vegetable garden fences, etc.; herbs were planted where they did best and mixed with cutting flowers and vegetables. The idea of planting a garden strictly devoted to herbs, each with different ecological needs, is part of the Colonial Revival of the 1920s and 1930s.

*Helen Chandler is Volunteer in Charge at the San Diego Wild Animal Park Herb Garden.*

## IRIS - IRIDACEAE

by ANN WATERS

THIS PLANT WAS NAMED for Iris, the Olympian Goddess of the Rainbow and a messenger of the gods. It is known to have been grown prior to 1400 B.C. in Syria. From there it made its way to Egypt.

The vast, diverse genus contains over two hundred species. Leaves are sword like or grass like. Flowers are showy and complex in structure.

The two main groups are:

#### BULBOUS

- (a) Dutch
- (b) *reticulata* - violet scented
- (c) Spanish
- (d) 'Wedgwood'
- (e) *xiphoides* - English.

#### RHIZOMATOUS

##### CRESTED

These are more shade tolerant than most iris. Flowers have a small, narrow crest at the base of the falls.

- (a) *cristata*
- (b) *japonica* - Japanese
- (c) *tectorum* - roof.

##### BEARDESS

The rhizomes have many fibrous roots requiring more water.

- (a) *ensata* (formerly *Kaempferi*) - Japanese
- (b) *foetidissima* - Gladwin
- (c) Louisiana
- (d) *missouriensis* - Western blue flag
- (e) Pacific Coast
- (f) *pseudacorus* - yellow flag
- (g) *sibirica* - Siberian
- (h) *spuria*
- (i) *unguicularis* (winter)

##### BEARDED

The bearded iris grows 9" to 36" tall from rhizomes. Its main feature is a beard (a tuft of hair) at the base of the outer petals (falls).

In this report we are concerned with the bearded iris. It can be found in almost any hue, shade, or tint of the color spectrum. It blooms from mid-May through June.

#### DESCRIPTION OF BEARDED IRIS

##### AMOENA

White standards; colored falls.

##### BICOLOR

Light or medium colored standards; deeper, contrasting falls.

##### BITONE

Standards and falls two shades of the same color.

## BLEND

Combination of two or more colors (one always being yellow).

## PLICATA

Stitched or stippled margin color and/or marked with dots on white background.

## VARIEGATA

Yellow standards with deeper falls of brown or purple, either varied or solid tones.

## SELF

Standards and falls the same color.

## WHERE TO PLANT

A sunny, well-drained location (will take light shade in hottest areas).

## WHEN TO PLANT

Plant new rhizomes between the end of June and the end of November. September is best.

## SOIL PREPARATION

About three weeks prior to planting, spade in (to a depth of 1 foot) a good application of well rotted manure and compost together with a balanced chemical fertilizer at the rate of ½ ounce per square foot. If your soil is heavy, incorporate some sand. The soil should have a Ph close to neutral.

## HOW TO PLANT

Trim roots to 6". Dig two slanting holes, leaving a ridge in the center. Place rhizome over ridge; spread the roots to either side. Fill the hole; when planted, the top of the rhizome should be just below the surface. Firm the soil gently around each rhizome. Water to settle soil and start growth. Plant iris 18" apart.

For quick show, plant three of a kind in a triangle 8" apart with toes pointed inward OR plant two with growing ends pointed outward, the third aimed to grow into the space between them. This will require earlier division of clumps.

## DIVIDING

For about a month after bloom, the plants mature, gain in size, and develop strong root systems. Do not divide during that time. After four or five years, lift clumps in the fall. Divide with a sharp knife (DO NOT BREAK APART); discard old, woody center and any weak, worn out portions. Trim leaves and roots of healthy sections with a good fan of leaves to 6". Wash thoroughly. Let cut ends heal for several hours or overnight before planting. Give cut portions a light dusting of soil sulfur. The rhizome may be placed in a vitamin B<sub>1</sub> solution for a while prior to planting.

## FERTILIZING

In February feed with a 0-10-10 liquid fertilizer; follow package directions carefully. After blooming feed plants to be left in the ground with a 10-10-10 fertilizer - THIS TIME ONLY. Do not over-fertilize. Avoid fertilization on top of rhizome. Superphosphate and bone meal are good top dressings.

## WATERING

Iris are drought tolerant but do not allow rhizomes to become dry. Soak deeply during hot weather.

## PESTS AND DISEASES

Control rust by spraying with copper oil.

Systemic sprays applied as a drench will eliminate aphids and thrips.

## GENERAL CARE

If you cultivate, do so shallowly; feeding roots are near the surface.

At all times keep old iris leaves, weeds, grasses and neighboring plants away from the iris so it will have sun to the rhizome.

Cut (do not pull) old bloom stems level with the ground.

In early fall cut foliage about 6 inches above ground; trim plant into a fan shape.

## AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY AWARDS

Highly Commended (HC)

Honorable Mention (HM)

Award of Merit (AM)

Dykes Medal

To be eligible for the Dykes Medal, an iris must have undergone six years of rigorous testing in all American climates and conditions and earned the Honorable Mention, then, two years later, the Award of Merit. Only one Dykes Medal is awarded each year but some years no iris receives this prize. 'Beverly Sills', a lacy coral-pink self and the 1985 Dykes Medal winner, is the most popular iris today.

## SOME DYKES WINNERS

'Dream Lover' (1977) *amoena*, blue-white standards, dark blue-purple falls.

'Kilt Lilt' (1976) *plicata*, gold standards, falls stippled gold and maroon on white.

'Ruffled Ballet' (1983) *bitone*, ice blue standards, medium blue falls.

'Edith Wolford' (1993) *variegata*, canary yellow standards, blue violet falls.

'Dusky Challenger' (1992) deep purple self

*Ann Waters is tour chairman for San Diego Floral Association and enjoys a large garden.*

# LOCAL SUNFLOWERS

*In the January-February 1996 issue of California Garden, readers were asked to send in pictures of their home-grown sunflowers. Only three responded. Here they are. Unfortunately, the seeds were not botanically identified.*



Left:

These sunflowers were grown by Mr. Dotson for bird seed. The flower heads were large, but because too much commercial fertilizer was used during the growing period, the seeds were empty. The plants towered over his friend Wilbur Glover.

Below:

These four foot tall sunflowers were grown on Point Loma by Margaret Cook. She planted twelve black sunflower seeds from a wild bird food mixture. Two of the seeds grew. The birds loved the seeds and could be seen hanging on the flower heads when they ripened. Note the small buds at the axils of the leaves. The top flower was about 12 inches across, but when the yellow petals began to fade small 4 inch diameter flowers bloomed simultaneously from the buds.



Left:

The picture of this small sunflower grown for the flower, not the seed, was taken by John Rojas, Jr. in Chula Vista.





# PEANUT EXPLORER

by BARBARA S. JONES

"MY MOM SAYS YOU can grow anything and I was to ask you how to grow peanuts." How could anyone refuse a request like that.

I explained to my young friend that I knew nothing about growing peanuts and to my knowledge had never seen them grown. He looked so disappointed that I suggested that maybe we could be like the explorers of olden-times who brought home new plants from their explorations around the world. This seems to appeal to him, so we discussed how we could do this. I have shelves of books relating to plants, so here is how we decided to start our exploration.

First, we looked up peanuts in a garden encyclopedia. We discovered that peanuts were discovered by Portuguese explorers in tropical South America (Brazil) and taken to West Africa and from Africa to America. Then we looked in a vegetable gardening book and found that they needed at least 110 days (about 3½ months) of warm weather to produce peanuts and they needed a sandy soil. We also learned that they are a primary crop in Georgia. Its Latin name is *Arachis hypogaea*, it is a *Leguminosa* (member of the pea family), and it is not a nut. Its common name is peanut, groundnut, or goober. There are two kinds: the Spanish which is bushy and has 3 or more seeds in a pod and the Virginia which is bigger and has 2 seeds to a pod.

Armed with this information, we explorers tried to find out where, when, and how we could plant peanuts. Since peanuts need 3½ months of warm weather that meant we had from June through September to grow them in the open ground. As it was mid-July we decided that we would grow them in a big pot and artificially supply the warm weather when needed. (What eight year old would wait eleven months to start a project?) From atlas maps we found that the temperature in Brazil and in West Africa ranged between 68°F to over 86°F. In Georgia, where they are commercially grown, the temperature is from over freezing to above 86°F. The rainfall in Brazil and Africa is from 60 inches to over 80 inches. In Georgia it is from 40 inches to over 60 inches. As our average rainfall is 9 inches and that does not fall in the warm summer, we figured we would have to give our plants lots of water. As it rains there almost every

day, that meant that we would have to water regularly and not let the plant dry out. (We couldn't soak the soil or keep it wet because peanuts like sandy soil that does not hold water.) One of the books recommended that dilute liquid fertilizer be applied to container grown peanuts every week.

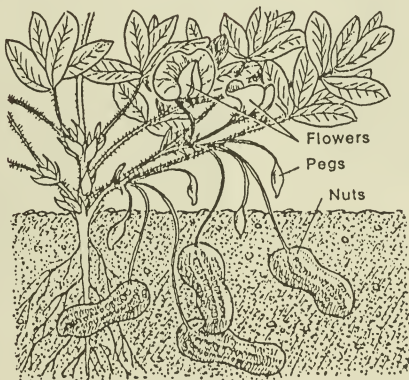
Fortunately one book recommended planting about 3 seeds to a square foot. We had a big pot that was a bit bigger than a square foot and 1½ foot deep. We figured that would give enough room as it is estimated that most plants need at least a foot of soil for roots to develop. We mixed some vermiculite into planting mix and filled the pot to within 2 inches of the top. (Another book recommended that wide shallow pots be used, but we did not have one.) As we were explorers, before the time of chemical plant food, we dug in some manure and then watered it well. Our local nurseries did not have any peanut seeds, but we feed the bluejays raw Spanish

peanuts, so we took a few big, healthy ones out of the shell. It was recommended that we use 3 seeds, but as we were not sure if all of ours would grow we put in 10. (We figured we could weed out plants as they developed to check on the root growth.) Many farmers soak seeds for a few hours before they plant, so we soaked half of them for an hour before we planted them the recommended 1½ inch deep. Then we watered them with a dilute solution of vinegar water. This was a trick of the pioneers and as our soil here is not acid (most of the soils where they grew well are acid) we figured we'd give them this

boost for a week or two. Just to make sure that we had viable (live) seeds we rolled some in a damp paper towel and put them in a warm place. (As this is a legume it should sprout from the seed in a few days. Ours sprouted in 7-10 days.)

Now we had to wait. We knew from our reading that this plant would look a bit like a bush sweet pea plant and grow to about a foot in height. (One book recommended that as soon as the plant reached a foot we should pile mulch or soil up around the stem for a few inches and dust the foliage with gypsum.) The flowers will be yellow and after about six weeks they will begin to bloom. When the flowers begin to fade a "peg" (a shoot-like structure)

(continued on page 181)





# CHILDREN IN THE GARDEN

by FRANCES KENNEL

part 3 Of 3



IF YOU ARE LUCKY, it's just you and the children in the garden for a time. Here are more ideas to help them see the world around them.

**RECYCLE SOIL** — (Kids love to sift!)

Use an old Rubbermaid-type scraper to rub soil through a plastic nursery plant tray (½-inch holes approximately) separating the small rocks, twigs, leaves, or whatever from compost, garden soil, or raked up debris.

An old sieve, colander, or sifter is great to sift out a pile of fine dirt. Fine dirt can be used to practice drawing lines, making pictures, writing numbers, signing your name, making foot or hand prints, making roads for "cars" (stick, rock, small piece of wood) or just playing in the dirt.

**WATER** (Depending on weather) —

Dress properly in old washable clothes and shoes. It's great fun to put Baggies over your socks and old tennies to keep them dry. (You can trim off the excess.)

Let children fill a hole with water and watch it soak in. Notice how much faster it goes down when Grandma adds a couple drops of detergent! It is fun to time it with the sundial or a timer.

A small stream of water from the hose or a pot or sprinkling can partially filled will bring out unique inventions. Children like to wash down the sidewalk, rocks, fences, shrubs, etc. It's best to supervise.

**ART** —

Use sidewalk chalk to draw a game (tic-tac-toe, hopscotch etc.) or a picture (rainbow) on the driveway, sidewalk, patio floor, porch, or wherever you give permission. Wheelbarrows, trash cans, and pots are fun places for artwork.

The art or game project should be near enough to where you are working to carry on a conversation easily.

**GOOD TOPICS TO TALK ABOUT**

**WEATHER:**

What kind of weather today, yesterday, tomorrow? Your favorite kind? Mine?

**WIND:**

What does it do? Blow dust, mess your hair, cool you off, make you cold, blow off your hat, fly a kite, move good and bad aromas and scents to your nose? Wind also scatters seeds and pollinates.

**RAIN:**

What happens after rain falls and it runs off your property, rain gutters, roofs, and down storm drains, roads, gullies, canyons, lakes, streams, and into the oceans? (Fill in the blanks simply, not too technically.)

What do they like or dislike about rain?

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WHILE KIDS ARE SIFTING, PLAYING WITH WATER OR DOING ARTWORK NEARBY**

**SEASONS:**

What are they? How can you predict weather by season? How does it affect them? You? Best or worst season? Why plant according to season? (We get kids personally involved by paying attention to their opinions.)

**OUR WORLD AND WELCOME TO IT**

**SNACKS** — (Served on upside-down cardboard box on blanket).

Warm (not hot) cider or apple juice in a teapot, coffeepot or thermos. Let kids pour if old enough. Use odd-sized cups. In hot weather serve cold juice.

Serve cinnamon toast, peanut butter and jelly, cream cheese and apple butter (have they tasted it?). Share a pear, banana, apple, orange, peach, or nectarine. (Peel, core, cut up or slice at serving time so they can watch.) Also share something different—kiwi, mango, sapota, Asian pear, black seedless grapes. Share each piece of fruit.

Cut up toast or sandwiches "special" at serving time. Share each. (Cutting a bread slice with a big X, a plus sign, or two parallel lines gives different shaped pieces to nibble.) Also good, dried prunes, golden raisins, pineapple, apricots, peaches, etc.

Share a hard-boiled egg. They are fun to crack and peel. Dunk in salt, pepper, mustard or whatever and enjoy. (I'll bet most kids haven't eaten a plain hard-boiled egg with their fingers.)

A good, ripe tomato cut in half is also fun to share.

All this can be packed into a large, brown paper bag. Forget the chips, cokes, candy, nuts, pizza, hot dogs, and hamburgers until another time. Share and enjoy!

Important—before snack time, help each other wash hands at hose with soap and an old towel.

**SKETCH PAD** — (Use colored pencils, crayons, or?)

Each person draw themselves and each other. Then draw the garden, a flower, clouds, pets, wheelbarrow, rocks, trees, a dirt pile, or whatever you like. The kids love to see Grandma's drawings even if they're primitive.

The children and you will never regret your time getting close to the earth. □

*Frances Kennell gardens in Crest. She is a long-time member and participant in shows of the Heartland African Violet Society, San Diego Geranium Society, and the Exotic Plant Society.*



## Now is the Time . . .

*A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR  
AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION,  
AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF*

### **AFRICAN VIOLETS**

**Helen La Gamma**

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO PREVENT** extreme differences between night and day temperatures.

**TO KEEP** the plants well groomed and repot those that have outgrown their pots. A good rule—the pot should be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the diameter of the leaf span.

**TO CONTINUE** to have good circulation of air around the plants.

**TO PROVIDE** adequate humidity; monitor the temperature carefully.

**TO PLAN** on using your plants with holiday decorations; plant in containers to match color scheme.

### **BEGONIAS**

**Margaret Lee**

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO CLEAN** up all debris—remove dead leaves and spent blooms.

**TO WATER** as needed.

**TO PUT** a top dressing of your favorite mulch around plants to replace any soil or mulch washed away by fall rains.

**TO GIVE** a light feeding several times a month to help the plants withstand any adverse conditions a little better.

**TO SPRAY** for mildew control.

**TO ALLOW** tuberous begonias to die back on their own; put aside and let rest, but sprinkle occasionally.

**TO BE VIGILANT** for insects; spray for mealybugs and other pests.

### **BONSAI**

**by San Diego Bonsai Club**

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO REDUCE** watering, deciduous trees require just

enough to keep them from drying out.

**TO MOVE** plants into shade if a hot spell occurs. Avoid a second growth period during this time—it will weaken the trees.

**TO REFRAIN** from fertilizing or transplanting at this time.

**TO KEEP** deciduous trees protected from sudden changes of temperature.

**TO REMOVE** any old leaves, fruit, or seeds from deciduous trees.

**TO PRUNE** black pines by cutting the candles about half length.

**TO GRAFT** conifers in December.

### **BROMELIADS**

**Mary Siemers**

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO STOP** fertilizing during fall and winter months, except those that are kept in a greenhouse.

**TO REDUCE** the frequency of watering when weather turns cooler.

**TO PROTECT** your plants from hail damage during the rainy season by providing overhead protection such as shadecloth that will allow plenty of light.

**TO PROTECT** plants from freezing temperatures by covering with sheets or newspaper.

**TO KEEP** plants clean by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves with scissors.

**TO SPACE** plants apart to allow air circulation. This helps to prevent scale.

### **CACTI & SUCCULENTS**

**Joseph A. Betzler**

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO WATCH** your plants. Most cacti and succulents have a dormancy period. Depending on the weather, many winter growers may start early growing.

**TO FERTILIZE** the plants that are actively growing.

**TO WATER** only in the morning on a day that is going to be warm. By doing this, no standing water will be on plants in the evening.

**TO PROTECT** tender plants from excessive cold and winter rains. Repair cracks and leaks in shelters before the rains arrive.

**TO KEEP** ants under control; they transport aphids and mealybugs.

**TO REMEMBER** that when plants become too cold during the cold evenings the growth of fungi and bacteria can be fostered.

**TO START** looking for winter growing succulents to add as an extra dimension to your collection.

**TO CLEAN** up your plants' growing area.

## **CAMELLIAS**

**E. C. (Gene) Snooks**

### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO FEED** with a 2-10-10 fertilizer to promote larger and better blooms.

**TO CONTINUE** disbudding.

**TO PICK** up all old blooms to prevent petal blight.

**TO SELECT** new plants while in bloom.

**TO TREAT** some blooms with gibberellic acid for larger and earlier blooms.

**TO MAINTAIN** a regular spray program as needed. Watch for mites and looper worms.

**TO KEEP** a regular watering schedule, never let a plant dry out—maintain an even, moist condition.

**TO MAINTAIN** humidity—on any dry, hot days mist in later afternoon to keep from burning leaves.

## **DAHLIAS**

**Abe Janzen**

### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO WITHHOLD** water and fertilizer to let the plants go dormant.

**TO ALLOW** plants to dry—when brown about 12 inches from ground, cut off the stalk.

**TO LEAVE** tubers in the ground to harden off if there is good drainage. Otherwise lift roots before the heavy rains.

**TO WASH** clumps after digging, let dry a few hours before storing. If dividing tubers, treat cut area with soil sulfur, store in vermiculite, sand, or other medium. Store out of the weather. Be sure tubers are tagged before storing.

## **EPIPHYLLUMS**

**San Diego Epiphyllum Society**

### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO WITHHOLD** fertilizer, especially one with nitrogen. Allow the plants to become semi-dormant.

**TO WATER** sparingly, but do not allow plants to dry out completely.

**TO PROTECT** plants from exposure to the elements. Frost, hail, and strong winds can cause irreversible damage. Overexposure to harsh winter sunlight can be as detrimental as hot summer sun.

**TO TIE** or stake long branches so they will not break when winds and rain arrive.

**TO CHECK** for snails and slugs; a few granules of Sluggeta at the base of the plant are often effective and leave little to no residue.

**TO MAINTAIN** good grooming and prune out nonproductive branches to conserve plant energy.

## **FERNS**

**by San Diego Fern Society**

### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO CHECK** containers to ensure planting mix has

not completely broken down; add more mix to containers that need it.

**TO BE ALERT** for insects. Slugs and snails are very active.

**TO WATER** if it does not rain. Check plants not reached by rain.

**TO APPLY** a weak fertilizer solution once more before the December rest period.

**TO PLANT** spores and keep in a warm area.

**TO CLEAN** out weeds, oxalis, and debris from pots.

**TO PROTECT** plants at night in frost areas. Cover with newspaper or old sheets or place in garage.

## **FRUIT TREES AND VINES**

**Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension**

### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO PRUNE** deciduous trees and vines after their foliage has dropped. Wait until early spring to prune evergreens.

**TO SPRAY** dormant deciduous trees and vines with horticultural oil to kill scale, insects, spider mites, and other overwintering pests.

**TO SPRAY** peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide such as lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide) to control leaf curl.

**TO ORDER** bare-root trees and vines to plant in December or January.

**TO PROVIDE** frost protection for young citrus and other subtropical fruit trees.

## **FUCHSIAS**

**William Selby**

### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO ALLOW** plants to rest; reduce or stop fertilizing.

**TO DO** heavy pruning in mild areas or in a greenhouse. Can make cuttings if a good tip available.

**TO CLEAN** up. Remove all dead leaves, blossoms, and debris from pots and baskets and around plants in the ground.

**TO WATCH** for insects, molds and fungi in warmer areas.

**TO MULCH** plants left outside in areas where there is danger of frost; move baskets under cover for protection.

## **GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)**

**Carol Roller**

### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO WATER** thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Watering will not need to be done as often as in the warmer seasons. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep the foliage as dry as possible.



**TO CONTINUE** feeding as needed. Do not allow plants to show prolonged signs of nutritional deficiencies. Use a balanced fertilizer that can be dissolved in water.

**TO CONTINUE** a pest control and disease prevention program, using all products according to the manufacturer's direction.

**TO PRUNE** any plants which have not been cut back. At least one green leaf should remain on every stem of regals, scented, and similar types. Lanky plants which were pruned in the fall can be cut again to produce compact plants.

**TO MAKE** cuttings from the prunings. Shelter cuttings from extreme weather. They will root faster in a warm location.

**TO PINCH** the rest of the plants which were pruned in the fall.

**TO GIVE** plants temporary shelter if the temperature approaches freezing.

**TO ROTATE** plants on a regular basis in order to keep well shaped.

### **GREEN THUMB** by Editorial Staff

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO FEED** bird-of-paradise. Cut out dead growth from clumps to improve appearance.

**TO CUT** mums to within a few inches of the ground after blooming.

**TO PLANT** bulbs for spring blooms—daffodils, narcissus, ranunculus, anemones, scillas, callas, tulips, and hyacinths.

**TO PRUNE** and shape holly and pyracantha when cutting berries for holiday decorations.

**TO APPLY** dormant spray in December to control pests and disease next year; to use snail and slug bait regularly.

**TO PREPARE** and enrich your soil, preparing now for the bare-root planting of roses, trees, etc. in late December and January.

### **HERBS**

Terry Tucker Hinkley

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO CONTINUE** pinching herbs back, harvesting the cuttings for winter use and gifts.

**TO DRY** herbs in bunches upside down or on a screen in a warm dry location.

**TO START** making potpourri from your dried and store-bought herbs, as well as sachets, bouquets garnis, fines herbes and other herbal holiday gifts from the garden.

**TO WATER** again in the late afternoon as necessary

during hot dry spells.

**TO BEGIN** preparing winter indoor herbs by potting up cuttings in kitchen-window sized containers, keeping soil damp and humidifying during hot weather.

### **IRIS**

San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO CLEAN** beds of dead leaves and weeds; aphids winter-over in debris-filled areas.

**TO SPRAY** for aphids or give a light feeding of a systemic to control all sucking plant pests.

**TO MAKE** a final planting of bearded types, spurias, Louisianas, and Siberians.

**TO PLANT** bulbous type iris—Dutch, English, and Spanish for spring bloom.

**TO MOVE** and replant Pacific Coast natives in late December when the little white roots are showing. Water well until they are established.

### **NATIVE PLANTS** Jeanine De Hart

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO GET** those natives planted that you purchased in October if you haven't already planted them.

**TO FEED** those natives that you purchased last year. A light feeding of a slow-release fertilizer is best.

**TO TAKE** advantage of any early rains to check for low or poorly drained areas. Use these areas to plant native wetland material such as *Anemopsis californica*, yerba manza.

**TO TAKE** root cuttings of Matilija poppy, (*Romneya coulteri*). A piece of root as thick as a pencil, quite orange in color and about 4" long works best.

### **ORCHIDS**

Charles Fouquette

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO FEED** a dilute solution of 30-10-10 fertilizer to intergeneric *Oncidium* hybrids, *Brassidium*, *Miltonia* if they are planted in bark. If they are grown in any other medium, feed a solution of 18-18-18. (The numbers reflect a guideline, not hard and fast numbers.)

**TO FEED** *Cymbidium* a 30-20-20 fertilizer. Stake new spikes—do not rotate plants. Protect buds and flowers from hail, rain, or sun damage.

**TO REPOT** *Cattleya* if new growth is outside of the pot and the plant is in active growth. (Otherwise, wait until spring.) Feed an 18-18-18 fertilizer, or similar, during the winter and only every third watering.

**TO CLEAN** up old leaves, flowers, and other "trash" in growing areas. Remove shade cloth to give as much light as



possible to the common growing areas. Clean the swamp cooler; drain the water out of the bottom; protect the motor by wrapping it with a plastic trash bag after you have oiled it and checked the belts and cords.

**TO CLEAN** humidity spray nozzles. Remove nozzles from feed line, loosen the brass parts and take apart. Soak these parts in a glass container with a solution of ten parts water to one part swimming pool acid (e.g., phosphoric, muriatic), using protective gloves and goggles. Or use pure vinegar, which works well but is slower. Through the glass container you will see when the parts are clean; rinse them with clear water and reinstall, after flushing the feed lines well.

**TO CHECK** the heater fittings, pilot light, flues, and vents. Check that the temperature sensors and activators are set at their HI-LO settings. You must have a fresh inlet somewhere in the hothouse, for AIR. You need clean air for combustion in the heating chamber and to replace the air burned in combustion going up the flue to the outside of the hothouse. If you don't provide a clean air intake, you will have poor and unclean combustion and ethylene gas in the hothouse killing flowers.

**TO LET** deciduous *Dendrobium* go dormant. Stop feeding when leaves start to drop. Water just enough to maintain root moisture. (Start to fertilize and water normally next spring when buds have swollen and are starting to develop and plant is starting active growth.)

**TO HAVE** *Phalaenopsis* be well on their way in the flower initiation mode at this time. Increase light to about 1500 footcandles by any means—shadecloth removal, etc. Try to duplicate the weather in the areas where phals are native (at this time of year the temperatures drop and it is very clear, cloudless, and relatively dry). You lowered the night temperature through October to 52-55 degrees while fertilizing with dilute solutions of 30-20-20 every other watering. In November, maintain the high light and increase the night temperature to 62-65 degrees (your target minimum temperature). The first week, water with clear water to flush all salts that may remain. The next three weeks, water with a solution of epsom salts, mixed 4 lbs. in 5 gals. water, applied through a Hozon proportioner. This should give the plants the magnesium sulfate they need for colorful flowers. The first week of December, flush again with clear water. The next three weeks, use a high phosphorus fertilizer to help flower production and plant turgidity. By January, you should be back to average care and fertilization. Try to maintain the high light until the temperatures get warmer, then drop the light to 1000± footcandles until next year. Maintain air movement at all times.

## ROSES

Marianne Truby

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO ASSESS** your garden and prepare for planting newly arrived bare roots when they become available at your local nursery.

**TO DISCONTINUE** deadheading, allow hips (seed

pods) to form, to encourage your rose to slow down flower production and become dormant.

**TO REDUCE** amount of water but do not allow bushes to become too dry if fall rains do not occur.

**TO REMOVE** bushes no longer producing and prepare new planting hole by adding amendments and superphosphate to existing soil to give bare roots a good growing medium.

**TO PRUNE** floribundas in late December.

**TO CLEAN** up entire rose bed and dormant spray once before pruning and again after pruning before buds leaf out.

**TO PREPARE** for pruning by checking your equipment. Proper equipment, clean and sharp will make the job easier. Don't forget the gloves and knee pads.

## VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension  
**NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO REMOVE** and compost warm-season vegetables to prevent pests and diseases from overwintering on them.

**TO CONTINUE** planting cool-season vegetables which will not be subject to frost injury.

**TO PLANT** seeds of short-day onions, such as 'Grano', 'Granex', or 'Crystal Wax', and garlic cloves in November for bulbs next summer.

**TO PLANT** dormant crowns of artichoke, asparagus, and rhubarb. To avoid crown rot of rhubarb, plant crowns in containers filled with porous potting soil and transplant into garden where drainage is good after several leaves have developed.

## VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

### NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

**TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF:** broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower — California natives, cineraria, columbine, fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), garden stock (*Matthiola incana*), hollyhock, Iceland poppy, ornamental kale, pansy, pink sand verbena, pot marigold (*Calendula*), snapdragon, and viola.

**TO PUT IN SEEDS OF:** beets, carrots, chard, kale, kholrabi, lettuce, onion (green and dry), parsnips, spinach, and turnips — baby blue eyes, California natives, candytuft, Chinese forget-me-not (*Cynoglossum amabile*), forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*), lupine, sweet allysum (*Lobularia maritima*), spring flowering sweet pea, and Virginia stock (*Malcolmia maritima*).

## SHRUB-SPECIES OF PLECTRANTHUS

by CATHERINE L. ZINSKY

WHEN PLECTRANTHUS IS MENTIONED conversationally, most gardeners generally envision Swedish ivy or the redolent Vicks plant, both basically ground covers. Yet in the 250 species found in this genus, many are shrubs. Two that I am especially fond of are *Plectranthus* 'Erma' and *Plectranthus argentatus*.

*Plectranthus* 'Erma' is a cultivar that blooms in the fall. This shrub reaches between 3-4 feet in my garden, and is just as wide, having squarish stems of purplish-brown with broadly ovate green leaves. The squarish stems immediately bring to mind mint, and for a valid reason: both belong to the family Labiatae. Just as a foliage shrub, 'Erma' makes a pleasing addition to the garden. When it blooms it is downright striking.

From afar 'Erma's' blooms look like sprays of pink plumes. Upon closer inspection the plethora of small lobelia-like flowers that compose this rather large branching plume (some as large as a foot!) become evident. Pink stamens boldly flare out of these tiny, somewhat tubular flowers, adding immensely to the overall grace and beauty of the entire spray, producing a hazy image of some exotic bird in full plumage.

*Plectranthus* 'Erma'

*Plectranthus argentatus*, on the other hand, is hard to realize as being related, they seem so different. But like 'Erma', *P. argentatus* has the squarish stems and similar individual flowers, though this particular shrub is not grown for its blooms, as they are not one-tenth as lovely as 'Erma's'. Rather, *P. argentatus* is grown for its foliage.

As some of you may have already discerned from its name, *P. argentatus* has silvery foliage, silvery foliage

that veritably glows, especially in the moonlight. And as if this near iridescent quality weren't enough, the leaves have the texture of living velvet. Unlike 'Erma', however, *P. argentatus* has a tendency to become leggy if ignored, so must be pinched periodically to keep it compact and bushy. It's an accent plant par excellence, highlighting the darkest of spots.

*Plectranthus argentatus*

Speaking of spots, both shrubs prefer partial sun, particularly in our hot afternoons. Average water and good drainage is appreciated. As both are not especially common, it might be necessary to search out some specialty nurseries to find one for yourself. If you know a fellow gardener who's willing to share, simply ask for a cutting, which is the simplest way to propagate either shrub. Good luck and happy gardening! . . . □

Catherine L. Zinsky is a free-lance writer for garden and canine publications. Photographs by the author.

## THREE OF THE GERANIACEAE

by DON MILLER

THERE ARE THREE GERANIUMS (maybe more) that are similar enough to cause confusion to the casual observer. They are *Geranium maderense*, *G. palmatum* and *G. canariense*. Before these are described maybe it would be informative to review once again the difference between geraniums and pelargoniums.

*Geraniaceae* is a family of perennials and within that family are the genera *Geranium* and *Pelargonium* and therein lies a problem. Just to be brief, the *Pelargonium* genus is represented by, for instance, 'Lady Washington'. They have mostly irregular flowers—that is the upper two petals are much larger than the other petals. The

*Geranium* genus has regular flowers, that is that all petals are of the same size and symmetrical.



*Geranium maderense* growing in the Botanical Building in Balboa Park, photo by J. Coleman

But, before I digress too far, back to the subject at hand, *G. maderense*, *G. palmatum* and *G. canariense*. As juveniles these taxa appear much the same. As *G. maderense* becomes older it grows into a large plant with a large trunk. The leaf petioles will become 10—20 inches long and as they age droop downward to appear as roots from the trunk. The other most obvious difference is the bloom. In *G. maderense* the blooms arise from the center of the plant and form a tall, light purple bouquet, which seems to glow in indirect light. Both *G. palmatum* and *G. canariense* are quite similar to each other. They do not have the drooping leaf petioles nor the central flower stalk. Their flowers occur in multiple locations and they bloom for a much longer period than *G. maderense*. *G. maderense* is from the island of Madeira, *G. canariense* is from the Canary Islands and *G. palmatum* is found in both places. Of course it won't be necessary to travel quite that far as all these species are on display at Quail Botanical Gardens. □

References; Hortus III and New Royal Horticulture Society Dictionary.

Don Miller is a Master Gardener, curator of native plants at Quail Gardens and chairman of horticulture of the California Native Plant Society.

(“Peanut Explorer” continued from page 174)

will develop beneath the flower and go down and bury the end 1½ to 2 inches beneath the soil. The peanut develops at the end of the peg. When the plant becomes yellow stop watering it as it will be time to harvest by pulling it up and leaving it to dry for two to three weeks before removing the peanuts.

If you want to roast your peanuts, heat the oven to 500°F. Put the peanuts in the oven and turn it off. Leave

the nuts until cool. When traveling in the South, one of the delicacies I discovered was green, boiled peanuts. They were sold by the pint from stands or could be purchased raw at the markets. The fresh peanuts are boiled in salted water for about 30 minutes. The seeds are popped-out of the pod and eaten warm. There were stands along the roadside with huge pots of the beans boiling and one can purchase them freshly dipped out of the pot. Some stands had specially seasoned ones that were boiled with spices and hot peppers. They were delicious. Boiled peanuts can be found in cans at specialty food counters in this area.

I do not know how we'll do with our peanut crop. We have done everything just like a true explorer (and how the books recommended.) If our seeds don't grow and produce, we have next year. If they grow or not, we decided we would order special ones recommended for our area from the seed catalog and be ready to plant next year as soon as the weather gets warm.

Peanuts were discovered in Peru by the Spanish and were extensively cultivated by the Incas and Mayas. Early Spanish explorers carried them to China, Java, and Japan. Peanuts were used as the principal food for slaves brought from Africa to the Americas. They were only grown in the United States as an oddity until being discovered by the Union Soldiers in the Civil War. After the war, more and more acres were planted and today it is one of our principal food crops. The famous Negro botanist, educator, and chemist George Washington Carver (1864-1934) became the pioneer of peanut agriculture.

Barbara S. Jones majored in botany at SDSU and has gardened in San Diego for over fifty years.

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Jacqueline Coleman





## Book Reviews

### FIFTY EASY OLD-FASHIONED ROSES, CLIMBERS AND VINES

Anne M. Zeman

New York, Henry Holt and Co., 1995, 108 Pages, 105 color photos, 8" x 10", hardcover, \$25

This is a wonderful addition to an ever-growing collection of books inspired by old-fashioned gardens of the past. Of special note, the author lives and gardens in Kingston, New Jersey and the selection of roses and climbers are based upon varieties growing and thriving in various areas of North America. They have been selected for beauty, longevity, hardiness, and fragrance. The listings are presented alphabetically and include exceptionally good color photos of flowers on the bush as well as close-ups suitable for identification. The layout is easy to read and includes type, parentage, year of introduction, country of introduction, brief history, bloom time, and culture suggestions. A high percentage of the recommended varieties originated in France, where the climate is similar to that in San Diego. With the growing number of specialized nurseries you should be able to locate most of those listed.

A similar format is used for the chapter on vines. You will enjoy wonderful bits of information on the history of these plants. An index is included of botanical names of vines as well as roses by classification.

A great gift or to own even if you never grow these roses or vines.

*Reviewed by Marianne D. Truby*

### NEW PERENNIAL GARDEN

Louisa Jones

New York, Henry Holt & Company, 1996, 160 pages, 149 color photos, 10 color sketches, 10" x 9 3/4", hardcover, \$40.00

The author proposes change from the conventionally practiced gardening, naming it a wasteful exercise. He projects the need to follow nature and grow what comes naturally. The selection of plants that thrive in your garden rather than creating artificial versions is the theme of this book. The *New Perennial Gardener* may interpret all weeds as wild flowers but does not define them as undesirable. This book has many beautiful pages of colorful examples of what may be accomplished. An extensive plant table listing includes botanical names and descriptions of growth, flower, season, height, and remarks.

*Reviewed by Marianne D. Truby*

### PLANTS THAT MERIT ATTENTION: VOLUME II — SHRUBS

Janet Meakin Poor and Nancy Peterson Brewster, Editors

Portland, Timber Press, Inc., 1966, 363 pages, 685 color photos, 8 1/4" x 11", hardcover, \$59.95

This book, a project of the Horticultural Committee of the Garden Club of America, is truly outstanding. It's published to encourage diversity in the planting of shrubs. There are three criteria for inclusion. Plants must be unusual, not readily available in at least one major region of the United States, and an enhancement to the landscape because of their flower, bark, fruit, or habit. In addition the majority are pest and disease resistant and are tolerant of a variety of environmental conditions.

By choosing plants not readily available in all regions, the book focuses attention on those that have long been in cultivation but now are out of fashion. Usually they can be found only in an arboretum or a botanic garden but cannot be purchased at the local nursery. A few plants are those newly introduced or new cultivars of old plants that have not yet received the publicity they deserve. Both problems are answered. Each shrub has an entry under "plant may be observed at" listing the arboreta, botanical gardens, gardens or parks where the reader may find the plant. About one hundred of these are listed with thirteen in California and eight no further north than Los Angeles. As for purchasing, Appendix II-A lists each plant by genus, species, and cultivar with a corresponding nursery source code indicating where it may be purchased. A number of North County sources are included. All have mailing addresses and telephone numbers.

Each shrub is described, including USDA Zone, nativity or origin, culture, and landscape value, and pictured usually with both the entire plant and a close-up of the bloom. Appendix III includes many different groupings of shrubs, a few are: shrubs that are shade tolerant, shrubs with ornamental fruit, and shrubs with conspicuous bloom (by color: white, blue to violet, yellow to orange, pink to red, and a few green).

Plant lovers and those thinking of improving their landscape will love browsing through this book, and it would be great to give as a gift for those same people.

*Reviewed by R. Cox*

### WILD CACTUS

Rose Houk

George H.H. Huey, photographer

New York, Artisan, 1996, 128 pages, 100+ color photos, 8" x 9 3/4", hardcover, \$25.00

It is easy to see that a great deal of thought and care went into the layout and makeup of this book; it is very attractive indeed. It is essentially a picture book dealing with the cacti in habitat in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. The standards observed in the photography are very high; any one of the illustrations would be elegant if enlarged and hung on the wall! The text covers the basics of cactus biology: their relationship to their environment; the traits that make a plant a cactus as distinct from, say, an agave or an euphorbia; their uses by the native peoples of North America; the history of their discovery and description by European botanists; and problems of preserving and protecting cacti and their habitat.

The probable audience for this book is not the cactus hobbyist or specialist, but instead the person who is interested in natural history without any great desire to delve very deeply into the details of growing or identifying cacti. The book makes no attempt to be wide-spreading or comprehensive, but is well worth looking at for its gorgeous photography.

*Reviewed by Phyllis Flechsig*

## **EASY ORCHIDS**

**Mimi Liebermann**

San Francisco, Chronicle Books, 1996, pages, 77 color photos, 8¼" x 8", softcover, \$8.95

Sometimes we orchid hobbyists and growers just get lucky. We have just recently been offered the most instructive book written by Mimi Liebermann keeping the NOVICE in mind. It seems to me that she presents the material in such a way that all can understand. There are so many simple ways to growing orchids successfully, and she has presented all the culture methods in a clear and enjoyable manner for orchid lovers at any level of experience.

The book is illustrated with many excellent vivid full-color photos. In her "How To Do It" column she gives us all the basics, which will get the beginner off to a good start.

After reading this grand little book, one is no longer intimidated by the word ORCHID. You as a beginner may successfully grow them. The price is right. Purchase a copy for your home library now.

*Reviewed by Ardell O. Marlin*

## **THE YEAR IN TREES: Superb Woody Plants For Four-Season Gardens**

**Kim E. Tripp and J. C. Raulston**

Portland, Timber Press, 1995, 204 pages, 206 color photos, 7½" x 10½", hardcover, \$44.95

This book is based on the plants in the landscape at the North Carolina State University Arboretum located in the USDA hardiness Zones 7 and 8. The book is divided into four sections: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. There are approximately fifty numbered color plates for each season. The text refers to each of the color plates for specific plants, giving the botanical and common name, detailed description of foliage, flower and fruit, height and spread at maturity, native location and/or state(s) in the United States, tolerances, susceptibilities, cold hardiness, propagation methods, and cultivars available. These informative descriptions vary from one to three pages of text for each plant. The author explains the North Carolina University Arboretum "Advocacy Program" that promotes promising plants through printed professional media and a program of plant distribution for grower trials throughout the United States.

*The Year in Trees* is a well organized book that provides very useful horticultural information in an easily readable format.

*Reviewed by Dorcas Utter*

## **ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN**

**William J. Weber**

New York, Dover Publications Inc., 1966, 96 pages, 33 b&w photos, 5 line drawings, 5½" x 8½", softcover, \$2.50

*Attracting Birds to Your Garden* suggests ways an individual homeowner can provide shelter and food for wild birds in an average city or suburban lot, and explains nicely how any

sanctuary area created for birds also creates a peaceful sanctuary for the homeowner. The book provides guidance for one to find out what birds are normally in an area, and their food preferences, such as: seeds (finches), insects (black phoebes), fruit (mockingbirds), and nectar (hummingbirds). It also advises that birds can be attracted by food, but are more apt to stay around if they have shelter from weather, protection from predators, and a suitable nesting area. Also, a source of water, such as a birdbath, is a necessary attractant. It does, however, require of the reader additional research on local birds and applicable vegetation.

Some plants recommended, such as multiflora rose, can become invasive, and wild grasses, left unmowed for seed, can be a fire hazard. In most instances, common names of plants are used leaving it unclear what plant is actually being suggested. The book is oriented more to geographical locations with winters colder than the San Diego area.

The book does have good suggestions on constructing feeders and nesting boxes. It explains the procedure to construct and install a shield for nesting boxes or feeders to prevent attacks from predators. It is an abridged republication of the 1982 edition.

*Reviewed by Dorcas Utter*

## **PLANTS FOR THE WATER GARDEN**

**Peter Thurman**

North Pomfret Vt., Trafalgar Square, 1994, 64 pages, 4¾" x 7", softcover, \$8.95

Good things do come in small packages and this book is certainly no exception. The cover says "plants at your finger tips," but it is knowledge at your finger tips. It starts with the basics of how to build a pond and gives several different types with easy to follow instructions. Next is stocking your garden and the need for an ecologically balanced pond. And if that's not enough, there is a plant directory with great color photos and detailed descriptions including when they should be planted.

An easy book to carry, you can stick it into your pocket when you visit a water garden or nursery. There are several check lists in the back of the book arranged by specific requirements. It's a wonderful little book.

*Reviewed by Kathy Walsh*

## **THE NEW FLOWER ARRANGING FROM YOUR GARDEN**

**Sheila MacQueen**

Portland, Timber Press, Inc., 1996, 128 pages, 44 color photos, 7¾" x 10", softcover, \$17.95

The title is intriguing. You want to read this book and see what new plants and flowers you can cram into your garden. You envision a flower arranger haphazardly picking from a gardenfull of new ideas. There are over forty of Mrs. MacQueen's flower arrangements and botanicals—all lovely in style and design. For the most part they are all traditional arrangements, lots of wispy grasses, leafy branches and shrubs and dried berries; things from the everyday gardens of England and the east coast of our country. Once again the California gardener and arranger must adapt. Along these lines Mrs. MacQueen has been a great help, for her design can be duplicated and copied with ease.

*Reviewed by Marie Walsh*



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*Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California*

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April 15  
June 17  
October 21  
5:45 p.m.

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1st Fri - 10:00 am, Home of Members

### BERNARDO GARDENERS GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Virginia Fackler

451-3923

3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Joslyn Senior Center,

Rancho Bernardo

### BONTA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Norma Illingworth

479-3478

2nd Wed - 9:30 am, Rohr Park Manor,

Sweetwater Road

### BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Than Craddock

435-4236

4th Monday - 9:30 am, Winn Room,

Coronado Public Library

### CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Alice Miller

721-6884

1st Fri - 1:00 pm, Sep thru Jun

Heritage Hall, Magee Park

### CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Theodore Felber

427-3184

3rd Thu - 1:00 pm, Norman Park

Senior Center

### CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Virginia Soderberg

582-7098

1st Wed - 7:00 pm, Home of Members

### CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Pres: Mr. David E. Sigsworth

435-5028

CROWN GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Suzanne Heap

435-5530

4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library

### DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Sarah Beers

749-2140

2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

### ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Jerry Doughty

743-1879

### FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Betty Henry

731-0706

### FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB

Chr: Mrs. Richard A. Burt

299-6742

2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

### GROSSMONT GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Sheila Hauserman

2nd Mon - 9:30 am, 4975 Memorial Drive,

La Mesa

### LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Francis S. Blankenship

454-4109

3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J. Lutheran Church

### LAKEVIEW GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mildred Digenan

443-1529

3rd Mon - 2:00 pm, Lakeside Historical

Church, 9906 Maine Avenue

### LAS JARDINERAS

Pres: Alicia Elliott

3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

### MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Pres: Mr. Patrick Shields

724-3749

4th Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community

College, Horticulture Building #T-700

### MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB

Pres: Helen Odom

743-1921

3rd Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community

College, Student Center Bldg (upstairs)

### PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Dale S. Munda

272-9727

2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Recreation Center

### POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Elaine Marshall

223-8708

2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Westminster Presby

Church

### POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: D. A. DeGomes

672-0158

### RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mr. Harold Sexton

756-1554

Hort Chrm: Mrs. Carol Streeter

2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Garden Club

### SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Dorothy Driscoll

463-6700

4th Tue - 9:30 am, Home of Members

### SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Clara Ziegler

943-8005

4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens

### SCRIPPS MESA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Cindy Drake

271-8933

4th Mon - 6:00 pm, Scripps Ranch Library

### THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA

Pres: Laura Hoke

390-9908

4th Thu - 10:00 am, Torrey Pines Christian

Church, LJ

### THE VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Betty Larson

727-0731

1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center

## KEBANAS SCHOOLS

### ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

### SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Haruko Crawford

660-2046

### KEBANAS INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER

Pres: Yoshie Sesma

279-2511

4th Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

### IKENOBOKU CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO

Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler

278-5689

### OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

### LA JOLLA CHAPTER

Pres: Connie Davis

672-0128

2nd Tues - 10:00 am

### OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

### SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Mrs. Walter Bourland

276-4667

### SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

### SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Pres: Mrs. Leroy Lahey

429-6198

All area codes are 619 unless otherwise noted.



## CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (CONTINUED)

### PLANT SOCIETIES:

#### AFRICAN VIOLETS

#### HEARTLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Pres: Claire Peck 561-2280  
3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Wells Park Ctr., El Cajon

#### SAN DIEGO DAYTIME

#### AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Pres: Pat Goldberg 462-4771  
2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Christ United Methodist Church, 33rd Street and Meade

#### BEGONIA

#### ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

#### AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Pres: Eileen Clause 459-4706  
2nd Tue - 10:30 am, Home of Members

#### PALOMAR BRANCH

#### AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Pres: Ingaborg Foo 724-4871  
SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

#### AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Pres: Mrs. Eleanor Calkins 746-4743  
Last Sat - 10:30 am, Home of Members

#### BONSAI

#### HON NON BO ASSOCIATION

Pres: Lit Phan  
1st Sun every other month (begin Feb)  
10:30 am, Casa del Prado

#### SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.

Pres: Lew Buller 576-0515  
2nd Sun - 11:00 am, Casa del Prado

#### BROMELIAD

#### BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF

#### BALBOA PARK

Pres: Ken Campos  
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado  
SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Pres: Joyce Brehm 277-1030  
4th Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### NORTH COUNTY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Pres: Morlane O'Donnell 422-8168  
4th Sun - 1:00 pm, Ecke Building

#### Quail Gardens

#### CACTUS & SUCCULENT

#### PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Pres: Ronald A. Chisum 753-3651  
4th Sat - 12:45 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr., Escondido

#### SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND

#### SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Pres: Mr. Joseph Betzler 569-8510  
2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado

#### CAMELLIA

#### SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Pres: Gene Snooks 454-6659  
3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### DAHLIA

#### SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

Pres: Ruth Kern 223-6000  
4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### EPHYLLUM

#### SAN DIEGO EPHYLLUM SOCIETY

Pres: Phil Peck  
2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### FERN

#### SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY

Pres: Donald Callard 792-5662  
3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### FRUIT

#### CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

Pres: Paul Phillips 670-9867  
4th Thu - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

#### FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANTS

#### SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA AND

#### SHADE PLANT SOCIETY

Pres: Richard Hubbell 443-3706  
2nd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### GERANIUM

#### SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY

Pres: Cynthia Pardoe 442-1944  
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### HEMEROCALLIS

#### SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Pres: Nancy Webb  
1st Sat - 10:00 am, Quail Gardens

#### HERB

#### THE HERB CLUB

Pres: Judy Dunning 669-0222  
1st Thu - 7:00 pm, Call for location

#### HOYA

#### SAN DIEGO HOYA GROUP

c/o: Harriette Schapiro 273-4267  
North County 432-8640

#### IRIS

#### SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES

#### IRIS SOCIETY

Pres: George Bange 571-1154  
2nd Sun - 1:00 pm - Jan/Mar/May

Jun/Aug/Nov - Joslyn Sr Ctr, Rancho Bernardo

#### IVY

#### THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER  
Pres: Johnny Stellini 233-4339  
1st Mon - Casa del Prado

#### NATIVE PLANTS

#### CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER  
Pres: Cindy Burrascano 685-7321  
3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Pres: Dorothy Frisbie 741-0829  
4th Mon - 2:00 pm - 16789 Bernardo Oaks Dr.,

Seven Oaks Community Center, RB

#### ORCHID

#### CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BRANCH  
Pres: Ardell Marlin 753-6952  
3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Carlsbad Woman's Club

#### SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

Pres: Fred Weber 583-3992  
1st Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### ORGANIC

#### BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Suzanne M. Mathews 426-3936  
3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

#### PALM

#### THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER  
Pres: Phil Bergman 291-4605  
Please call for Meeting dates

#### ROSE

#### EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Coe Applegate 670-0644  
1st Sun - 2:00 pm, Gardens of Members

#### SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Phil Ash 235-0004  
3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### TREES

#### PEOPLE FOR TREES

Pres: Tom Story 234-TREE  
FAX 687-0151

#### WATER GARDEN

#### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

Contact: Walter Pagels 582-5408

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:

CLASSIC GARDENS 459-0316  
P. O. Box 2711

La Jolla Ca 92038-2711

#### THE BOTANIC GARDEN OF SAN DIEGO

Pres: Rudy Cesena 566-7557  
P. O. Box 26729

San Diego Ca 92196-0729

#### AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates  
Editor *California Garden*, 2125 Park  
Boulevard, San Diego Ca 92101-4792.  
Call 232-5762.

Deadline for Jan-Feb issue: Nov 15, 1996.

#### Attention Affiliates . . .

Are you aware that each affiliate group  
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Make a basket as a gift — small, approximately 8-10 inches — made of garden materials! Bring a memento such as yarn, ribbon, etc. of your own to weave in (or use ours). Make in a day for someone special. Bring tools, bucket, and lunch; all materials are provided.

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ADDRESSES

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Saratoga Horticultural Research Foundation, Inc.

15185 Murphy Avenue

San Martin CA 95046

408/779-3303, FAX 408/778-9259, saratoga@garlic.com  
(page 170)

Pat Pawlowski

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# COMMUNICATIONS . . .

## WE WELCOME LETTERS PERTAINING TO GARDENS!

As some of you know, we have been sending out surveys with our renewal notices. Last issue I told you that the committee had decided to end the survey. It was brought to our attention that we said we would survey for a year, so we will be sending out survey forms for a year, whenever that may end.

## A NEW SUBJECT AREA FOR "NOW IS THE TIME"

**Terry Tucker Hinkley** begins contributing in this issue on the subject of herb growing. She is a free-lance writer and has an herbal column in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. Terry has had numerous articles about herbs published nationally. She is now preparing a new herb garden at her home in Normal Heights and also grows organic vegetables. She was pleased to have a terrific success with this summer's tomato crop.

---

*Can anyone tell us the author of an article we have a copy of to print titled "Pumpkins and Squash"? The first line begins, "The scene of a farmer's field with harvest corn shocks slanting teepee-like [sic] in rows intermingled with the bright orange of pumpkins all in a row . . ."*

---

On page 167, Dr. Tucker is quoted as saying that Mexican vanilla contains coumarin, a substance that can be harmful. I'm told that Mexican vanilla can be bought in Tijuana with a label reading "no coumarin" or "coumarin free."

We request comments from readers who feel that we have provided incorrect information. The goal is to give readers the best gardening knowledge available.

We have had some questions about the giant whitefly. The *San Diego Union-Tribune* carried a comprehensive article by Vincent Lazaneo on this pest on Oct. 7, 1996.

People who didn't see this, who have access to a computer, may want to go on-line to <http://www.uniontrib.com>. The "Archives" section has files on complete newspaper issues. One is asked for one's name and password, but there is no charge at present. I'm told (I don't know anyone who's tried) that one can select a password after requesting "Archives" and go into the files with this password.


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Laura Emerick is a member of the Herb Society of America, The Herb Club and the San Diego Floral Association. Images from the post card series recently won Best of Show, First Place and Honorable Mention in the Herb Society of America's First Annual Photographic Competition.

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